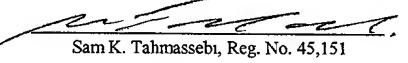


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Hui, et al.)	Group Art Unit Not yet
)	assigned
Appl. No.	:	Not yet assigned)	
Filed	:	Herewith)	
For	:	BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR FOR STERILIZATION PROCESSES WITH DOUBLE BUFFER SYSTEM)	I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on
Examiner	:	Not yet assigned)	February 27, 2002 (Date)
)	 Sam K. Tahmassebi, Reg. No. 45,151

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits of the captioned application, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Before page 1, line 5, please insert the following paragraph:

Related Applications

The present application is a division of, and claims priority to, U.S. Application Serial No. 09/699,728, entitled "BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR FOR STERILIZATION PROCESSES WITH DOUBLE BUFFER SYSTEM," which was filed October 27, 2000, by Hui et al., which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety, including any drawings.--

Appl. No. : Not yet assigned
Filed : Herewith

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-20, without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein.

REMARKS

The application filed herewith is a division of the parent application Serial No. 09/699,728, whose claims were subject to a restriction requirement. By present amendments, Applicants have elected to pursue one of the restricted claim groups not pursued in the parent application. Applicants assert that the cancellation of other restricted claim groups makes no admission as to the patentability of said claims. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part applications and pursue the cancelled subject matter.

No fee is believed due in connection with the present amendments. If this is incorrect, please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1410 for the appropriate amount.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Feb. 27, 2002

By: Sam K. Tahmassebi

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